

KANSAS CITY MISSOURI POLICE DEPARTMENT

# BURGLARY PREVENTION FOR HOMES

*AN INFORMATIONAL GUIDE FOR HOME SECURITY*



KANSAS CITY MISSOURI POLICE DEPARTMENT

## BURGLARY PREVENTION FOR HOMES



KANSAS CITY MISSOURI POLICE DEPARTMENT

1125 Locust

Kansas City, Missouri 64106

816-234-5000

[www.kcpd.org](http://www.kcpd.org)

**For further information contact your  
Community Interaction Officer**

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Central Patrol Division	816-759-6313
1200 E. Linwood	64109

Metro Patrol Division	816-581-0715
7601 Prospect	64132

East Patrol Division	816-482-8506
2640 Prospect	64127

North Patrol Division	816-437-6230
1001 N.W. Barry Rd	64155

South Patrol Division	816-672-2828
9701 Marion Park Drive	64137

Shoal Creek Patrol Division	816-413-3440
6801 N. Pleasant Valley Road	64119

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## When you go on vacation

When you make your vacation or business travel plans, make a burglary prevention plan as well. You'll enjoy your trip much more if you feel secure about the safety of the property you've left behind. Coming home to a safe, well-lighted house is very reassuring and you can do that by following these steps:

1. Lock all doors and windows.
2. Connect lamps and radios/TV in various parts of your home to automatic timers to create a lived-in appearance to the outside world.
3. Leave shades and blinds in their normal positions.
4. Ask your neighbor, friend or relative to pick up your deliveries such as mail and newspapers.
5. Arrange to have your lawn mowed or snow removed. Ask a neighbor to put a bag of trash out in front of your house on trash day.
6. Store valuables in a safe place.
7. Keep your garage door closed.
8. Alert the police and a close neighbor to look for any suspicious activity in your absence.
9. Exterior lights should be equipped with dawn-dusk switches.
10. Refrain from notifying the newspaper delivery people or the mail service of your vacation plans.



## Burglary Prevention Tips

- Join Operation Pawntrace. This program helps you keep track of important serial numbers and descriptions of valuable property in your home. Programs similar to this have been effective in cities throughout the nation in identifying property that may have been stolen. There is no cost to participate, only your time to follow the simple steps listed below.
  1. Obtain an Operation Pawntrace brochure at any division station, the department website (kcpd.org) or use a piece of paper that you have at home.
  2. On the paper, list and describe valuable items in your home, include serial numbers and/or ID numbers that are engraved on the item. Pictures are helpful.
  3. Keep the list in a safe place so you have the information available in case you are the victim of a crime.
- When you move into a new home, you cannot be sure who might have a key. It is usually not necessary to buy new locks, simply have the old locks rekeyed.
- Many burglars look for doors and windows left unsecured.
  1. Lock all doors and windows when you are not home. Windows can be pinned for security during the day or night.
  2. When working outside, do not leave doors unlocked that you cannot see. This includes your garage door.
- Not knowing who is knocking on your door could result in a face to face meeting with a criminal.
  1. Use a door viewer (peep hole) or window, before opening the door.
  2. If you don't recognize the person, don't open the door but make sure the person knows someone is home. Burglars are for the most part not confrontational by nature and do not want any contact with you.
- When you are out and about in your neighborhood, be observant and watch out for suspicious activity. Get to know your neighbors and watch out for them also.
- Call the police when you notice any suspicious activity or persons. It is better to be safe rather than a victim.

This booklet and checklist is provided to help you make a security survey of your own home.

The first purpose of a home security inspection is to identify features in your home or daily routine which might make your home an easy target for a burglar.



The security inspection should begin at your front door. Include an inspection of all the doors and windows, locks and landscaping.



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## Exterior

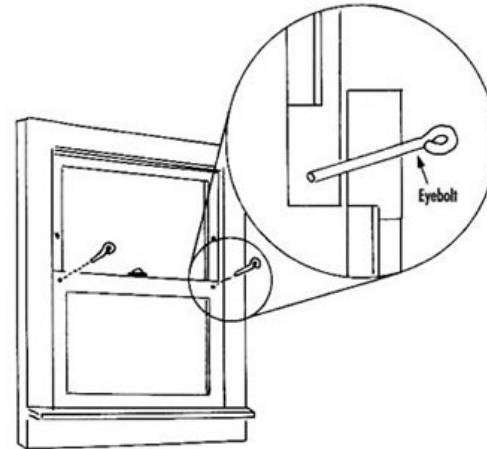
Your first line of defense is the appearance your home gives from the street.



1. Lighting – All entry ways should be well lit with lights located high and out of reach. A good location is under eaves.
2. Shrubbery and trees should not block the view of the doors and windows.
3. When staying home or leaving your home at night, leave lights on inside. Inexpensive timers can be connected and scheduled to go on and off at different times.

## Windows

### Securing Double-Hung Windows with Pins



The latches on many double hung windows can be easily jimmied or pried open. This type of window can be simply and inexpensively made secure.

The window can be pinned by drilling a hole at a slight downward angle

where the upper and lower sash overlap each other in the center of the window. The hole should be drilled through the first sash and into, but not through the second sash. The window can then be pinned with a strong nail. Additional holes may be drilled for pinning the window in a slightly open position for ventilation.

Several types of keyed slide locks can be utilized with vinyl-type windows. Slide locks offer effective protection and are available for double hung windows. They are inexpensive and easy to install.



## Sliding patio doors

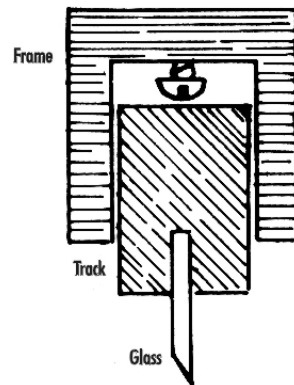


Patio doors can be easily defeated by prying the lock or by lifting the door out of its tracks. Fortunately, both of these attacks can be prevented. To prevent forcing the

door open, a secondary locking device that fits onto the door track or a “charley-bar” will help. These are available at most hardware stores.

To prevent the patio door from being lifted out, it is recommended that pan head screws be installed, evenly spaced, in the upper slide track of the door. The screw heads should protrude just enough to allow free movement of the door but prevent the door from being lifted out of the track.

### Using Screws to Prevent Sliding Doors from Being Lifted



## Doors

**MANY DOORS ARE WEAK IN CONSTRUCTION AND OFFER LITTLE RESISTANCE TO PHYSICAL FORCE.**

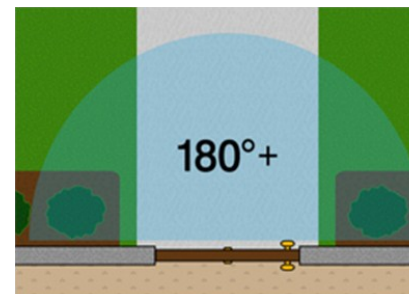
Exterior doors should be of solid wood construction or a metal jacketed type door.

Doors in poor condition are often too weak to provide adequate protection against force.

Install metal reinforcement collars to reinforce the lock area of the door.



Answering your door without knowing who is outside can result in personal contact with a criminal.



Install a 180 degree door viewer; a wide angle viewer in the door lets you know who is there.

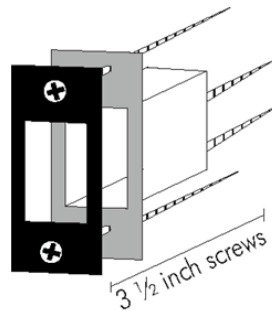


## Door Jamb

Door jambs are usually constructed of soft wood and provide little protection against forced entry. The jamb will frequently break near the strike plate when force is applied against the locked door.

Reinforce the door jamb on the interior side near the door locks.

1. Install a heavier gauge strike plate (four or six holes) rather than the one that came with the lock set. Attach this strike plate with at least 3" screws that extend back into the stud behind the strike plate.

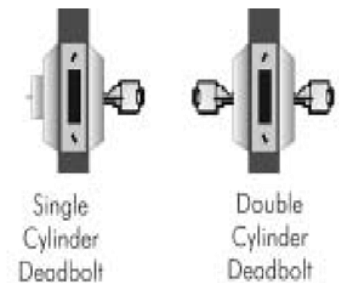


2. Install what is commonly known as a jamb brace. This is a rectangular shaped piece of aluminum, which is installed behind the trim piece of the door jamb and out of sight. The throw of the deadbolt, when locked, passes through a hole in the brace. If force is used on your door, the jamb brace disperses the force throughout the door jamb, not just at the location of the deadbolt. This item is also available for doors with side lights.

## Locks

Good locks not only keep honest people honest, but act as a deterrent to the burglar. The door secured with an inadequate lock is an attraction to the burglar, as he can gain entry quickly and easily, without neighbors seeing or hearing anything.

There are many different types of door locks. Two popular types are shown on the left



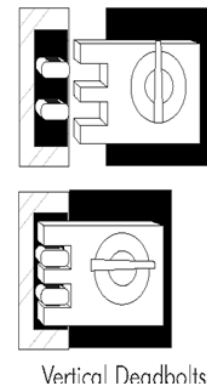
When deciding on a deadbolt, remember that not all deadbolts are created equal. Consider the following when choosing a lock:

Minimum of 1/4 inch carriage bolts to hold the deadbolt cylinder halves together

Hardened steel bolt with a 1" throw

Bolt encased in a one piece housing

Bolt constructed to limit internal movement or "play" when the bolt is fully extended



**Warning – The use of a double cylinder lock can be a fire hazard and is in violation of the city fire codes.**

